From: Morning Consult
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Subject: Morning Consult Tech: Week in Review & What"s Ahead
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By Sam Sabin

In an effort to continually improve Morning Consult's editorial products, today we are debuting a new and improved calendar that highlights the most important industry and policy events in tech throughout 2019. Check out the full calendar here and the week-ahead preview below.

Week in Review

Washington lobbying

- Facebook Inc. and Google set new company records for annual lobbying spending in 2018 as Washington's scrutiny of big tech companies heightened. According to federal disclosures, Google spent more than $21 million, outspending its previous record of more than $18 million in 2017; Facebook spent close to $13 million on lobbying, up from its record of $11.5 million spent in the year prior.

- Amazon.com Inc. spent $14.19 million in 2018 on lobbying the U.S. government, according to a federal filing, up from $13 million the year before. Amazon, alongside Google and Facebook Inc., set a new company record for lobbying spending as the company takes an interest in health care plans, drug prices and food safety, per the filing.

- Netflix Inc. joined the Motion Picture Association of America, a trade association currently representing six legacy Hollywood studios. The move comes after Netflix left the Internet Association earlier this month and as the streaming service ramps up its original television and feature film production.

Data privacy

- France's data privacy watchdog, the National Data Protection Commission, fined Google €50 million ($57 million) under the European Union's data privacy rules for a "lack of transparency, inadequate information and lack of valid consent" regarding user advertising personalization. Google is the first major U.S. tech company to be officially penalized under the EU's General Data Protection Regulation, which went into effect in May.

- Google said in a statement that it will appeal a 50 million euro fine ($57 million) from CNIL for violating the European Union's privacy rules. Google contends it created a consent process that is "transparent and straightforward" based on regulatory guidelines.

- Several advocacy groups, including the Electronic Privacy Information Center and Open Markets Institute, are urging the Federal Trade Commission in a letter reviewed by reporters to break up Facebook, specifically by unwinding the acquisitions of both WhatsApp and Instagram, as a penalty for failing to protect user data. The FTC is nearing the end of its investigation into Facebook for allowing data firm Cambridge Analytica to improperly obtain the personal data of millions of users.

Agency moves

- The U.S. Department of Justice said it will officially pursue extradition of Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou, who was arrested in Canada for her alleged involvement in efforts to violate U.S. sanctions on Iran. Huawei Chairman Liang Hua said at the World Economic

Forum in Davos that the company wants a quick resolution to the case, but does not have direct contact with authorities.

- The U.S. Department of Labor filed a federal complaint alleging that Oracle Corp. withheld more than $400 million in wages from women and people of color and excluded African-American and Hispanic candidates from hiring. Out of about 500 new employees in a four-year period, only five were Hispanic and six were African-American, according to the complaint, and more than 5,000 women and 11,000 Asian employees were underpaid.

- Former Alphabet Inc. Chief Executive Eric Schmidt will head the new National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence, leading a group of 14 other tech experts charged with advising the government on the security implications of AI. Schmidt also leads the Defense Innovation Board, a group the Pentagon consults on various tech issues.

Possible Amazon facial recognition tech biases

- Amazon's facial recognition technology , which has been marketed to police departments and federal agencies, has more difficulties reading the gender of female faces and of darker-skinned people in photos when compared to similar services from IBM Corp. and Microsoft Corp., according to a new study from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab. In the study, Amazon's technology misclassified women as men 19 percent of the time and mistook darker-skinned women for men 31 percent of the time, renewing questions about the potential bias found in the company's technology.

What's Ahead

- The House and Senate are both in session.

- The Federal Communications Commission is scheduled to hold its next open meeting Wednesday. Agenda items include consideration of anti-spoofing provisions in the RAY BAUM'S Act and establishing a schedule to transition to CAF Phase II Auction Support in price cap areas.

- Oral arguments are set to beginning on Friday in Mozilla Corporation v. FCC in the U.S. Court of Appeals D.C. Circuit Court, focusing on the agency's decision in the Restoring Internet Freedom.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

01/28/2019

DreamPort's Zero Trust Technology Showcase	9:00 am
National Privacy Legislation: A Call for Action on Data Privacy Day	11:30 am
Hudson Institute's "Breaking up is Hard to Do: Corporate Restructuring as an Antitrust Remedy" discussion	11:45 am
Georgetown University's conversation on the future of national security, feat. Oculus VR founder Palmer Luckey	4:00 pm

01/29/2019

Esri Federal GIS Conference	
State of the Net Conference 2019	8:00 am
Senate Intelligence Committee's hearing on worldwide threats	9:30 am
Federal Communications Bar Association's Homeland Security & Emergency Communications Brown Bag Lunch	12:15 pm

01/30/2019

Esri Federal GIS Conference	
Space Foundation's "The State of Space" event	9:00 am
FCC's January Open Commission meeting	10:30 am

Federal Communications Bar Association's Mass Media Committee Brown Bag Lunch	12:15 pm

01/31/2019

House Energy & Commerce Committee's hearing on the impact of the government shutdown	10:00 am
Federal Communications Bar Association's Internet of Things Committee Brown Bag Lunch	12:15 pm
The Aspen Strategy Group Presents: Technology and National Security: Maintaining America's Edge	3:00 pm
Center for Democracy & Technology's talk with Susan Crawford, author of "Fiber: The Coming Tech Revolution and Why America Might Miss It"	5:30 pm

02/01/2019

Oral arguments in Mozilla Corporation v. FCC focused on net neutrality rules	9:30 am

View full calendar

Webinar: Has the Super Bowl become too politicized for advertisers?

Next **Wednesday, January 30 at 1 p.m. ET**, Morning Consult will host a webinar to help companies understand what happens when they get involved politically during the big game and beyond as well as which issues are most divisive for consumers in today's political climate. Register today →

Morning Consult Tech Top Reads

1) Former Google Chief to Chair Government Artificial Intelligence Advisory Group
Jack Corrigan, Nextgov

2) US government v Silicon Valley: Oracle said to owe $400m to women and minorities
Sam Levin, The Guardian

3) A Surge of States Take on Data Privacy as Congress Stalls
Ashley Gold and Sarah Kuranda, The Information

4) French watchdog slaps Google with $57M fine under new EU law
The Associated Press

5) Apple just dismissed more than 200 employees from Project Titan, its autonomous vehicle group
Lora Kolodny et al., CNBC

6) Amazon's Cloud King: Inside the World of Andy Jassy
Kevin McLaughlin, The Information

7) Netflix joins major Hollywood lobbying group
Steven Overly, Politico

8) Amazon spends company record on U.S. lobbying in 2018: filing
Paresh Dave, Reuters

9) Washington tech lobby picks new leader
David McCabe, Axios

10) U.S. will seek extradition of Huawei CFO from Canada
Karen Freifeld et al., Reuters

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